



## **RESOLUTION**

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**REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT STUDY TO IDENTIFY AND REPAIR HAZARDOUS SIDEWALK CONDITIONS IN URBAN HONOLULU.**

WHEREAS, sidewalks are intended to provide a safe, effective and efficient way for pedestrians to move and travel between destinations; and

WHEREAS, sidewalks require regular maintenance to reduce the damage caused over time by the effects of weather and use, as well as to promote user safety, ensure ease of access, and encourage sidewalk usage; and

WHEREAS, the most common sidewalk maintenance problems include the following:

1. Step separation: A vertical displacement of .5 inches or greater at any point on the walkway could cause pedestrians to trip or prevent the wheels of a wheelchair or stroller from rolling smoothly;
2. Cracked concrete: Holes and rough spots ranging from hairline cracks to indentations wider than .5 inches can impede travel;
3. Settled areas: Sidewalk segments with depressions, reverse cross slopes, or other indentations that make the sidewalk path lower than the curb can trap silt and water on the sidewalk and reduce the slip resistant nature of the surface;
4. Tree root damage: Roots from trees growing in adjacent landscaping can cause the walkway surface to buckle and crack; and
5. Vegetation overgrowth: Ground cover, trees, or shrubs on properties or setbacks adjacent to the path that have not been pruned can encroach onto the path and create obstacles;

and

WHEREAS, sidewalks become useless and often dangerous if maintenance and needed repairs are neglected and sidewalks are allowed to degrade to a state where they cannot be used safely or must be avoided during travel; and



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WHEREAS, the increase in anecdotal reports suggest that unsafe sidewalks are increasingly contributing to pedestrian accidents and injuries in Honolulu, and pose a significant threat to elderly and disabled pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration ("FHWA") notes that in order to maintain good sidewalk conditions, current and potential problems need to be identified through an objective assessment process that may include the following best practices:

- The establishment of a sidewalk improvement program that identifies sidewalks requiring improvements, access or maintenance;
- The use of the Sidewalk Assessment Process, a prototype system developed to inventory the dimensions, locations, and conditions experienced by pedestrians in the public right-of-way in a reliable, consistent, and comprehensive manner; and
- A convenient and well-publicized way for citizens to report sidewalks in need of maintenance or repair;

and

WHEREAS, FHWA guidance notes that for a maintenance program to be effective, it must identify conditions that can impede pedestrian access and quickly respond with prompt repairs. Additionally, any citizen complaints reported should be given first consideration for improvement or repair if the reporting involves a safety or access issue; and

WHEREAS, the FHWA also urges that periodic assessments of new and existing sidewalks be conducted as a matter of practice, and that assessment data should be verified after a major event, such as a flood, earthquake or vehicle accident impacting adjacent sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that there is a need to determine which sidewalks in urban Honolulu are hazardous and present a safety issue for pedestrians in order to institute immediate repairs, increase safe walking conditions, and decrease the potential liability to the City that these hazardous conditions represent; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City administration is requested to conduct an assessment study to identify and repair hazardous sidewalk conditions in urban Honolulu; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council requests that the study recommend a plan to immediately identify and correct hazardous sidewalks, as well as a long-range plan for sidewalk maintenance to prevent hazardous conditions from arising in the future; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Directors of the Departments of Facility Maintenance, and Design and Construction.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Chris Ikehara*  
*Ann Kobayashi*

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63-5119 63-1116-1118

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**JAN 28 2014**

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII  
CERTIFICATE

**RESOLUTION 14-23**

Introduced: 01/28/14 By: CAROL FUKUNAGA

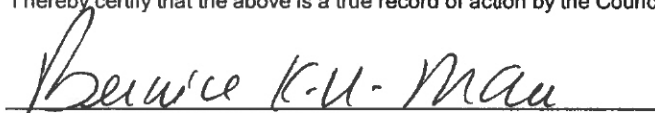
Committee: PUBLIC WORKS AND  
SUSTAINABILITY

Title: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT STUDY TO  
IDENTIFY AND REPAIR HAZARDOUS SIDEWALK CONDITIONS IN URBAN HONOLULU.

Voting Legend: \* = Aye w/Reservations

02/05/14	PUBLIC WORKS AND SUSTAINABILITY	CR-36 – RESOLUTION REPORTED OUT OF COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION.
02/19/14	COUNCIL	CR-36 AND RESOLUTION 14-23 WERE ADOPTED. 9 AYES: ANDERSON, CHANG, FUKUNAGA, HARIMOTO, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MARTIN, MENOR, PINE.

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.

  
BERNICE K. N. MAU, CITY CLERK

  
ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER